



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Lahontan Region



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150  
(530) 542-5400 • Fax (530) 544-2271  
www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Board Members

*Harold*

FROM: HAROLD J. SINGER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DATE: SEP 16 2008

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION TO THE 100-YEAR FLOOD PLAIN WASTE DISCHARGE  
PROHIBITION WITHIN THE LITTLE TRUCKEE RIVER HYDROLOGIC  
UNIT FOR THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY  
INDEPENDENCE LAKE MAINTENANCE PROJECT, NEVADA AND  
SIERRA COUNTIES

In 10 days, I intend to sign the enclosed letter granting an exemption to the above-cited discharge prohibition specified in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan), and issuing a Notice of Applicability for General Waste Discharge Requirements for small construction (Board Order No. 6-91-31). The exemption will allow the project proponent to remove sediment that has accumulated in the outlet channel from the lake. The project is necessary to maintain proper operation of the lake system and prevent excess sediment from entering the Little Truckee River.

A public notice soliciting comments regarding the prohibition exemption will be posted for 10 days on the Water Board's website and interested parties have been notified by email through the Region 6 electronic mailing system.

Please contact me at (530) 542-5412, or Bud Amorfini at (530) 542-5463, if you have any questions or comments regarding this matter.

Enclosure: Draft Notice of Applicability

BA/clh: TMWA Independence Lake board Notice.doc  
[TMWA Independence Lake Maintenance/WD]D 6A290808007/Nevada and Sierra Counties]

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Bill Hauck  
Truckee Meadows Water Authority  
1355 Corporate Boulevard  
Reno, NV 89520

### NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY FOR GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND FLOODPLAIN DISCHARGE EXEMPTION FOR TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY, INDEPENDENCE LAKE, WDID NO. 6A290808007, BOARD ORDER NO. R6T-2003-0004-137, NEVADA AND SIERRA COUNTIES

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has received your Notice of Intent to comply with the terms of the General Waste Discharge Requirements for minor lakebed alteration projects (Permit). Water Board staff has found your project eligible to proceed in accordance with the Permit requirements.

1. The project shall be constructed in accordance with the requirements contained in the Permit and in accordance with the information submitted in the Notice of Intent.
2. The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until the Notice of Applicability is officially revoked. Revocation procedures are specified in Section IV.C. of the Permit.
3. Failure to abide by the conditions of the Permit could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project location is at Independence Lake (HU No. 636) in Nevada and Sierra Counties, and is needed to maintain the function of the outlet conveyance channel and minimize potential sediment discharges to the Little Truckee River. The project will involve removing approximately 50 to 75 cubic yards of sediment from the head of the conveyance using a rubber-tired backhoe. The area of disturbance is approximately 4,000 square feet. Although the goal of the project is sediment removal, sediment discharges may occur from the activities. The material will be removed and loaded directly into an end dump for off-site storage at the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Glendale Water Treatment Plant. The material is then reused for fill where needed at various TMWA facilities. Work will be conducted when the channel is dry and the lake level will be approximately 75 to 100 feet from the work area. Sediment controls will be

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placed between the work area and the edge of lake. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined the activity is exempt from Clean Water Act Section 404.

### **WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION**

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) contains certain waste discharge prohibitions that apply to the Little Truckee River Hydrologic Unit (HU No. 636), including prohibition 4.(c), which states:

*The discharge or threatened discharge, attributable to human activities, of solid or liquid waste materials, including soil, silt, clay, sand, and other organic and earthen materials to lands within the 100-year floodplain of the Little Truckee River or any tributary to the Little Truckee River is prohibited.*

### **PROHIBITION EXEMPTION**

The Basin Plan allows for exemptions to the above cited prohibition for repair of existing structures provided there is no additionally loss of floodplain area or volume and applicable best management practices and mitigation measures are incorporated into the project proposal. The proposed project meets these criteria. Therefore, in accordance with provisions in the Basin Plan and Resolution No. R6T-2008-0031, I am granting an exemption to prohibition 4.(c) specified above.

### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

I have determined that the project meets the criteria for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15304), which includes maintenance dredging where the spoils are deposited in an approved material storage area. The Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse for the project.

If you have any questions regarding permit requirements, please contact Bud Amorfini at (530) 542-5463. Please use the above-referenced WDID and Board Order numbers in any future communications regarding this project and permit.

HAROLD J. SINGER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc: Sierra County Transportation and Public Works Department  
Nevada County Planning Department  
Town of Truckee Building Department  
Karen Schlichting, Tri Sage Consulting  
Bill Orme/ State Water Resources Control Board